

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method treating a metallic cord comprising contacting the metallic cord with a naphthenic oil containing from 1 to 53 percent by weight of a soluble cobalt salt and thereby deposit to the cord from 0.002 to 0.7 grams of cobalt per kilogram of steel in the metallic cord.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said naphthenic oil is directly contacted with the cord by means selected from the group consisting of dipping, spraying, rubbing, wicking and combinations thereof.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the naphthenic oil contains from 5 to 30 percent by weight of cobalt naphthenate.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of cobalt salt deposited to the cord ranges from 0.02 to 0.25 grams cobalt per kilogram of steel in the metallic cord.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said soluble cobalt salt is selected from the group consisting of cobalt naphthenate, cobalt neodecanoate, cobalt propionate, cobalt stearate, cobalt benzoate and mixtures thereof.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said soluble cobalt salt is cobalt naphthenate.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said treated cord is contacted with a rubber composition to form a rubber reinforced article.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein said article is selected from the group consisting of a belt, tire and hose.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said metallic cord is steel.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the metallic cord is zinc-plated or brass-plated.

11. A metallic cord which has been treated in accordance with the method
5 of claim 1.

12. An article of rubber reinforced with metallic cord comprising the treated cord of claim 9.

- 10 13. The article of claim 10 selected from the group consisting of a hose,
conveyor belt and a tire.

14. The article of claim 11 wherein said article is a tire.